The Deposition of Joseph Butler who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that Elizabeth Butler the person who has petitioned against Elizabeth McWilliams for Freedom is the Daughter of Mary Butler now the property of or in the possession of Mr. Bradford of Bladensburgh, that the said Mary did formerly petition for freedom against Henry Bradford but had Judgment against her as this Deponent has been informed which he has been told and he always understood is the reason why the said Mary is held as a Slave by the said Mr. Bradford now being asked how he knows that the said Elizabeth is the Daughter of the said Mary answers That the said Elizabeth formerly lived with Elizabeth McWilliams about three Miles from where this Deponent used to live and that the said Mary her mother lived with Mrs Bradford at Bladensburgh that this Deponent has frequently when going to and coming from George Town he called to see the said Mary who always asked him how her Daughter Elizabeth (who lived about Three Miles from the Deponent as above stated) did and always made enquires after her as a Mother. That this Deponent has always understood that the said Elizabeth was the Daughter of the said Mary and that such has been the General Talk of all the family and the neighbourhood, and that he never heard or understood any thing To the Contrary.

Sworn before J Butler

And the said Elizabeth McWilliams by her attorney aforesaid relinquisheth the assument aforesaid and saith that she cannot deny but that the said Elizabeth Butler is entitled to her freedom in manner and form as she has above set forth. Therefore it is considered by the court here that the said Elizabeth Butler the petitioner aforesaid be free and discharged of and from the service of the said Elizabeth McWilliams, and that she the said Petitioner go thereof without day &c. It is also considered and adjudged by the Court here, that the said Elizabeth Butler the petitioner aforesaid recover against the said Elizabeth McWilliams the quantity of twelve hundred pounds of Tobacco by the Court here unto her the said Elizabeth Butler on her assent adjudged for her Cost and charges by her about her prosecution of the petition aforesaid in this behalf laid out and expended; and that she have thereof her execution against the said Defendant &c.

Test John Gwinn Clk

Eleanor Butler against Joseph Gardiner

Be it remembered that at this same Term to wit the second Tuesday of October being the ninth day of the same month in the year seventeen hundred and ninety two Eleanor Butler by Gabriel Duvall her attorney files in our General Court the following petition for Freedom to wit.

To the honourable the Judges of the General Court.

The petition of Eleanor Butler humbly sheweth, that she is held in Slavery (together with her Child Mary) by Joseph Gardiner of Charles County and she is advised that she is entitled to her freedom being descended in the female line from a free white woman. She therefore prays your honour (the premises being considered) to discharge them from the custody of the said Joseph Gardiner, and that Summons may issue for the said Gardiner to answer unto this petition, and she will pray &c. &c.

G Duvall for Pt.

And the said Joseph Gardiner by Philip Barton Key his attorney appears in Court here and saith that he cannot deny but that the said Eleanor Butler is entitled to her freedom in manner and form as she has above set forth. Therefore it is considered by the Court here that the said Eleanor Butler the petitioner aforesaid be free and discharged of and from the service of the said Joseph Gardiner and that she the said Petitioner go thereof without day &c. It is also considered and adjudged by the Court here, that the said Eleanor Butler the petitioner aforesaid recover against the said Joseph Gardiner the quantity of pounds of Tobacco by the Court here unto her the said Eleanor Butler on her assent adjudged for her Cost and charges by her about her prosecution of the petition aforesaid in this behalf laid out and expended; and that she have thereof her execution against the said Joseph Gardiner &c.

Test John Gwinn Clk.

Clement Butler against Leonard Boarman

Petition for Freedom

Mutatis Mutandis as against Joseph Gardiner above

Cost Test John Gwinn Clk.

State of Maryland against Mary Kelly

Be it Remembered that heretofore to wit on the twenty third day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and ninety two Mary Kelly by David McMechen her attorney sued out of the General Court here the Writ of the State of Maryland of Certiorari

(directed)